

REMARKS/ARGUMENT**Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-23 remain pending. Claim 18 has been amended to correct a minor editing error in the original claim without changing the scope thereof. The other claims remain unchanged.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akitaya et al. U.S. Patent 6,820,018 (Akitaya). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to A self-contained power control module for a battery operated device. To begin with, it is clear that Akitaya is not a *self contained* module. Consider, for example, Figs. 8 and 9 of the patent: there is a separate microcomputer unit 56 (or a timer 57 in Fig. 9), a switch SW3, two transistors Q2 and Q3, a capacitor C1, etc. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Akitaya to integrate these into a single self-contained module.

Continuing, claim 1 calls for:

a support base for the module constructed and configured to be removably installed in a battery compartment, and conformable to standard battery configurations;

first and second normally open electrical terminals positioned and configured to couple the module between a battery and a load device when the module is installed in the battery compartment . . .

a motion detector responsive to motion of the module to provide a reset signal for [a] timer . . .

None of the recited elements are found in the reference. With all due respect, the Examiner has mis-described or ignored each of these elements in his analysis, and has referred to portions of the patent text which utterly fail to support his analysis.

For example, with regard to the first limitation, the Examiner has completely ignored the requirement that the support base be removably installable in a battery compartment, and conformable to standard battery configurations, and has simply referred to a "support base" which obviously is not what has been claimed. The actual limitation is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the reference.

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With respect to the second limitation, the Examiner has again ignored the recited "first and second normally open electrical terminals" and calls them instead, a "normally open circuit path". If he is referring to SW3 in Figs. 8 and 9 of the reference, he is wrong: this is formed by two single pole, double throw switches(see col. 16, lines 16-20).

If, on the other hand, he is referring to transistor Q2, this couples the battery BATT3 to the load 54 through a regulator U1. It does not couple any kind of module "between a battery and a load device when the module is installed in the battery compartment." Nor is it "normally open" since its state is controlled by other elements which have no defined "normal" state.

Finally, with respect to the third limitation, there is a motion detector (28) in the reference, but it does not function to provide a reset signal for [a] timer. Instead, its function is solely related to controlling the printing operation (see col. 8, line 31 through col. 9, line 55).

Claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-17 are accordingly not anticipated by Akitaya, and should be allowed.

Claim 18 is also directed to a self-contained power control module. As explained above, Akitaya is not constructed in this manner. Claim 18 further requires the normally open circuit path, and the motion detector responsive to motion of the module to provide a reset signal for the timer, both of which were discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claim 18 also calls for a controller which:

is further operative to provide a gradual transition between the conductive and non-conductive states of the electronic switch, whereby the current in the circuit path changes gradually when the load device is energized and de-energized.

The Examiner's reference to Col. 1, line 11, and Col. 2, line 10, says nothing about a gradual transition between the conductive and non-conductive states of an electronic switch, and nothing else in the reference does either.

Claim 18, and dependent claims 19-22 are therefore also not anticipated by Akitaya, and should be allowed.

Finally, like claim 18, claim 23 is also directed to a self-contained power control module for an electrically operated load device, and the comments above concerning this are applicable here as well. Likewise, claim 23 calls for:

a normally open circuit path operable to be closed to couple the module between a power source and a load device;

an electronic switch connected in the normally open circuit path, the switch being operable between conductive and non-conductive states by control signals applied thereto to close and open the circuit path; [and]

a programmable master controller which is operable to . . .

provide a gradual transition between the conductive and non-conductive states of the electronic switch, whereby the current in the circuit path changes gradually when the switch changes from its conductive to its non-conductive state.

These features were also discussed in connection with claim 18, and claim 23 should be allowed over Akitaya for the same reasons as in the case of claim 18.

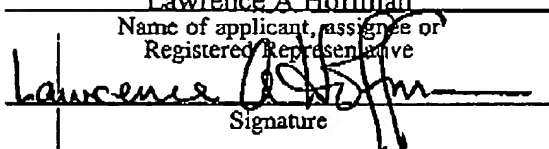
Regarding Other References Cited by the Examiner

The other references cited by the Examiner but not applied have been considered, but the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by these references.


In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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